

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and more distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicants regard as their invention. Additionally, several of the dependent claims have been amended in minor respects to overcome formal matters.

Claims 1, 2, 19, 20, 39, 41, 47, and 67 were objected to on formal grounds. The examiner suggested corrective changes and each of those suggestions has been adopted.

Claims 2 through 13, 15 through 17, 19, 20, 23 through 28, 37 through 39, and 61 through 69 were rejected as indefinite. Each of claims 2, 19, 58, 61, 62, and 65 has been amended to overcome the asserted indefiniteness.

Claims 1, 41 through 46, 54, 56, 57, and 59 were rejected as anticipated by the Malott '251 reference. In that regard, claim 1 has been amended to recite a parallel power branch transmission with particularly arranged shift rails and a stop rail engageable with the shift rails. None of those additional claim features is shown in or suggested by that reference. Accordingly, claim 1 and the dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in that reference.

Claims 1 through 13, 15 through 17, 19, 20, 23 through 28, 37 through 39, 41 through 47, 54, and 56 through 69 were rejected as anticipated by the Pels '247 reference. Again, the amendments to claim 1 recites a structure that is neither shown in nor suggested by that reference in that there is no disclosure of the claimed shift rail arrangement.

Because claim 1 is a generic claim in that the remaining claims depend therefrom, either directly or indirectly, all the claims should be considered and found to be allowable.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form in that they patentably distinguish over the disclosures contained in the references that were cited and relied upon by the examiner, whether those references be considered in the context of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this Amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred J. Mangels', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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